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Washington Urban District Council

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Council Chambers,
Washington,
Co. Durham.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District of Washington and on the work of the Health Department under the control of my predecessor Dr. W. D. Miller for the year 1950.

I do not feel it is necessary to comment here on the various facts and figures which appear in the Report as I have endeavoured to show comparisons with previous years whenever possible.

It is most pleasing to learn that a Voluntary Organisation for the Welfare of the Aged was sponsored by the Council during 1950 and appears to be making excellent progress. I feel certain that in time its work will be reflected in improved mental and physical health of those whom it seeks to serve and will be rewarded by their increased happiness.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durham), D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Association and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshop Inspector, Shops Inspector, Cleansing Officer, Petroleum Officer and Rodent Control Officer.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health also acted as Medical Officer to the Urban Districts of Hebburn and Felling.

Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Child Welfare and Maternity
Home Nursing	School Medical
Home Helps.	Welfare of the aged
Vaccination	Welfare of the blind
Immunisation against Diphtheria	Health Visitors

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for maintaining a routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5,758 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid-1950—17,770.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books—4,977.

Rateable Value £69,450.

Sum represented by a penny rate £256.

The chief industries in the Urban District of Washington are Coal Mining, Chemical Works and Iron Works (manufacturing chiefly equipment for the Coal Mining Industry).

There are various subsidiary industries, one of the most important being agriculture, there being some very good dairy farms in the district. Out of a total number of 20 farms 2 are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and 3 Accredited Milk.

It is desirable that many more farms should produce tuberculin tested milk and the number in this area doing so is very low compared with many parts of the country. The consumption of milk infected with bovine tubercle bacillus is almost invariably the cause of tuberculosis of neck glands, abdomen, bones and joints and of the too often tragic infection of the meninges. The importance of a pure milk supply to the health of the people in the district cannot be over emphasised.

It is satisfactory to note that by the end of the year all milk sold in the district was bottled before distribution.

The Timber Yards, Springwell Stone Quarries, Brickyards and general trading occupy the vast majority of the rest of the working population in the area.

The main industrial diseases resultant from the chief industries are miner's nystagmus, pneumoconiosis, silicosis in the case of coal miners and occasionally asbestosis in some of the workers at the Chemical Works. Fortunately due to the strict enforcement of numerous precautions these diseases do not affect nearly as many as in the days of old and it is to be hoped and expected that each year will see a reduction in the number of those affected for the first time.

It is unfortunate that there still seems to be a considerable amount of overcrowding in many parts of the district and that there are so many houses which are not fit for human habitation. As you are aware your Officers do endeavour to have as many as possible repaired, but with the ever soaring cost of work and materials and more or less stationary pre-war rentals, it is practically impossible for many of the owners to fulfil their obligations and they are often " more to be pitied than despised " for failing to implement their responsibilities.

Whilst this very bad housing exists it is bound to affect the health of many of the occupants and it will be necessary for the position of sub-standard and slum property to be considered in its entirety at an early date.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for outward and inward transfers) during 1950 was 325 as compared with 362 for 1949.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:—

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	317	157	160	Giving a Birth Rate of 18.29 per 1,000 of the estimated population.
	Illegitimate	8	3	5	

To exactly compare the Birth Rate in Washington Urban District with that for the country, it must be multiplied by a comparability figure of 1.03, giving a rate of 18.83 compared with 15.8 for England and Wales.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the Birth Rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e., the excess of births over deaths for 1950 as compared with the years 1941-1949.

Year	Total Births	Males	Females	Birth Rate	Total Increase
1941	255	129	126	15.44	43
1942	287	145	142	17.73	114
1943	276	154	122	17.17	77
1944	325	181	144	19.98	135
1945	314	170	144	19.18	137
1946	Figures not available.				
1947	381	203	178	22.25	204
1948	395	195	200	22.52	218
1949	362	197	165	20.49	166
1950	325	160	165	18.29	163

Still Births

During 1950 there were 15 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	Legitimate	15	5	10	Giving a Still Birth Rate of 44.1 per 1,000 total (live and still births).
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population of 0.81 in the district as compared with 0.37 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate

The Registrar General reports that, after correction for outward and inward transfers, 162 residents in the Washington Urban District died, being 77 males and 85 females.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1950 there were 134 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 57 males and 77 females. Of these, 1 male and 1 female did not normally reside in the area, therefore 56 males and 76 females having their permanent residence within the area died therein.

21 males and 9 females whose permanent residence was in Washington Urban District died outside the area. The total number of deaths, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 162, being 77 males and 85 females.

The Death Rate, corrected for outward and inward transfers, and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 9.12. That for 1949 was 11.1.

In order to compare the Death Rate in this area with that for the country as a whole, it must be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.24, giving a rate of 11.31 as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

Total Deaths under 5 years (corrected locally)

During 1950, 11 children died before attaining the age of five years. This is equivalent to 16.2% of the total deaths.

Of these, 10 were under 1 year of age and 1 was 1-2 years of age.

Deaths in Institutions

Of the 30 residents who died outside the district, 26 died in hospitals or died in a nursing home, one in a private house, one was found drowned, and one was dead on arrival at the R.V.I., Newcastle.

The following table shows the number of deaths of Washington residents in various hospitals outside the area:—

Heath House, Houghton-le-Spring	2
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary, Tynemouth ...	1
Bensham Hospital, Gateshead	3
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	1
General Hospital, Sunderland	2
Boldon Sanatorium	1
Crossgate Hospital, Durham	2
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	1
Relton Hospital, Chester-le-Street	2
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	4
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	1
Babies' Hospital, Leazes Terrace, Newcastle ...	1
General Hospital, Newcastle	4
Maternity Hospital, Chester Road, Sunderland	1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis—pregnancy or abortion.

Comparisons between Washington and England and Wales

The maternal mortality per 1,000 total live and still births based on deaths primarily classed to diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state is as follows:—

	England and Wales	Washington Urban District
Abortion with Sepsis	0.09	—
Other abortion	0.05	—
Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	—
Sepsis of childbirth and puerperium	0.03	—
Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	—

Death Rate of Infants under One Year

10 children died during 1950 before attaining the age of one year being 6 legitimate males and 4 legitimate females equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 30.77 per 1,000 live births.

During 1949, 19 children died before attaining the age of one year.

The following table shows the death rates for infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1941-1950.

	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1941	91.02	89.84	142.86
1942	52.26	75.00	0.00
1943	79.71	82.39	0.00
1944	58.77	57.69	76.92
1945	50.96	53.69	0.00
1946	Figures not available		
1947	41.99	40.65	83.33
1948	50.66	63.60	166.66
1949	52.49	53.98	0.00
1950	30.77	30.91	—

It will be noted from Table II that there were three deaths of infants under 1 year of age in Washington and in Washington Station Wards and 2 each in Usworth Colliery and Great Usworth Wards.

The ratio of infant deaths per 1,000 population is 5.63.

Of the 10 infants who died before attaining the age of 1 year, 6 were due to prematurity and congenital malformation.

The following table shows in detail the number and causes of infantile deaths under 1 year of age and also the deaths at various ages, viz.: 4 under 1 week, 1 between 1 and 2 weeks, 1 between 3 and 4 weeks, 1 between 2 and 3 months, 1 between 3 and 4 months, 1 between 5 and 6 months, and 1 between 8 and 9 months.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 162, 6.17% of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of the 10 infants who died 40% were under 1 week and 60% under 4 weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1950.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-2 days	2-3 days	3-4 days	4-5 days	5-6 days	6-7 days	7-14 days	14-21 days	21-28 days	Total under 4 weeks	28 days-2 mths	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	6-7 months	7-8 months	8-9 months	9-10 months	10-11 months	11-12 months	Total under 1 year
All Causes } Certified	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
All Causes } Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	4

	Nett Live Births—Legitimate Males	Nett Live Births—Legitimate Females	Illegitimate Males	Illegitimate Females	
Corrected as per Registrar General ...	157	160	3	5	= 325
Nett Deaths	6	4	–	–	= 10

During 1950 there were 145 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (3 of the deceased so certified having post mortem examinations performed). 2 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest, 7 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem), 4 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest and 4 were uncertified.

The distribution of deaths (all ages and corrected for outward and inward transfers) in the various wards is shown in the following Tables (I and II). Table I shows the incidence during each quarter of the year—Seasonal Incidence and Table II shows the age and sex distribution of deaths in each ward.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Washington	13	10	8	8	39
Usworth Colliery	15	4	16	9	44
Wash'ton Station	8	13	1	9	31
Springwell	4	2	2	8	16
Great Usworth	7	6	4	5	22
Wash'ton Staithes	1	1	2	2	6
Barmston	1	2	1	–	4
	49	38	34	41	162

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.		1-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Washington	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	2	4	2	1	1	8	14	18	21
Usworth Colliery	1	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	3	1	10	6	3	4	4	11	21	23
Washington Station	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	.	3	1	3	2	2	7	4	5	15	16
Springwell	1	1	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	2	3	6	5	11
Great Usworth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	2	2	4	3	3	12	10
Washington Staithes	...	1	...	...	.	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	4	2
Barmston	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.	1	...	...	2	2	2
Total	7	5	...	1	1	1	1	...	11	4	25	15	10	19	23	41	77	85

Comparative Table:

No. of Deaths in Washington

Population 1950—17,770.

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Smallpox	Acute Myelitis inc. Encephalitis	Pneumonia	Total
1941	212	–	–	–	11	4	–	–	5	20
1942	173	–	–	–	11	2	–	–	4	17
1943	199	–	–	1	12	2	–	–	8	23
1944	190	–	–	–	5	11	–	1	6	23
1945	177	–	–	–	11	5	–	–	4	20
1946	189	–	1	–	10	5	–	–	9	25
1947	177	–	1	3	14	11	–	–	7	36
1948	177	–	–	4	15	5	–	–	5	29
1949	196	–	4	1	17	10	–	–	7	39
1950	162	–	–	–	6	6	–	–	4	16

Death Rates in Washington per 1,000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.

(W—Washington: EW England and Wales)

Year	All Causes		Typhoid & Paratyph'd		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Tuber-culosis		Influenza		Acute Myelitis incl. Encephalitis		Pneumonia	
	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW	W	EW
1941	12.2	12.9	–	0.00	–	0.06	–	0.07	0.67	Figures not available	0.24	0.19	–	Figures not available	0.30	Figures not available
1942	10.7	11.6	–	0.00	–	0.02	–	0.05	0.68		0.12	0.09	–		0.25	
1943	12.4	12.1	–	0.00	–	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.75		0.12	0.37	–		0.50	
1944	11.7	11.6	–	0.00	–	0.03	–	0.02	0.31		0.68	0.18	0.62		0.37	
1945	10.8	11.4	–	0.00	–	0.02	–	0.02	0.67		0.31	0.08	–		0.24	
1946	11.1	11.5	–	0.00	0.06	0.02	–	0.01	0.58		0.29	0.15	–		0.53	
1947	10.3	12.0	–	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.17	0.01	0.82		0.64	0.09	–		0.41	
1948	10.1	10.8	–	0.00	–	0.02	0.23	0.00	0.86		0.29	0.03	–		0.29	
1949	11.1	11.7	–	0.00	0.23	–	0.06	0.00	0.96		0.57	0.15	–		0.40	
1950	9.1	11.6	–	0.00	–	0.01	–	0.00	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.10	–	0.02	0.23	0.46

Causes of Death in Washington Udban District during 1950.

	Causes of Death.	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	–
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	–
4.	Diphtheria	–	–
5.	Whooping Cough	–	–
6.	Meningococcal Infections	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyllitis	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	–
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	7
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	–	–
16.	Diabetes	–	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	17	16
18.	Coronary disease angina	15	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	5	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	6
22.	Influenza	3	3
23.	Pneumonia	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	5	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	–	–
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	–	–
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	–	–
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	–	–
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	–	–
31.	Congenital malformations	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	–
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	2	–
36.	Homicide and operations of War ...	–	–
	All Causes ...	77	85

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950 for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census) London Administrative County compared with Washington.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Washington Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
BIRTHS—					
Live	15 8	17.6	16 7	17 8	18.29
Still	0.37	0.45	0.38	0 36	0 84
DEATHS—					
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11 6	11.8	9.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0 00	0 00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0 01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0 10	0.07	0.34
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.34
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	00.1	—
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0 45	0.48	0.23
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0 00	0 00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0 01	0 01	0 01	0.01	—
Meningococcal infection ...	0 03	0.03	0.02	0 03	—
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1 61	1.23	1.01
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21	1 74
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0 03	0.06
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57	17.45
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50	0.73
Acute poliomylitis (including polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08	0. 28
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	—
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
DEATHS—					
Deaths under 1 year of age	29.8	(a)33.8	29 4	26.3	30.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 yrs. age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	—
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	5.81	7 43	4.33	6.03	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

International List No. and Cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per Million Women aged 15-44	Washington Urban District
651 Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7	...
650, 652 Other abortion	0.05	4	...
640-649, 670-678, Complication of pregnancy and delivery.	0.54	...	...
681, Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium.	0.03	...	...
680,682-689, Other complication of the puerperium.	0.15	...	...

Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis.

There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1950, being equivalent to a death-rate of 0.21 per 1,000 population from the pulmonary form and 0.056 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.
1941	14	.601	.848	3	.127	.181
1942	12	Not available	.741	3	Not available	.185
1943	14	.557	.871	–	.111	–
1944	3	.524	.184	8	.103	.492
1945	4	.519	.244	1	.100	.061
1946	7	Not available	.410	3	Not available	.176
1947	9	.47	.525	3	.079	.175
1948	10	.44	.570	1	.067	.570
1949	9	.403	.509	2	.054	.113
1950	5	.321	.281	1	.043	.056

Heart Disease

Heart Disease, as in former years, was the chief cause of death throughout the area, 42 deaths being due to this cause. In accordance with the international revision of the causes of death there has been a sub-division of the types and so in 1950 the new classes Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with Heart Disease and other Heart Disease have been combined for the purposes of the following table, 22 males and 20 females died from these diseases, equivalent to 25.92 per cent. of the total deaths and yielding a mortality rate of 2.36 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease	Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			All Causes	Heart Disease	
1941	212	34	12.23	2.06	16.03
1942	173	22	10.68	1.36	12.71
1943	199	41	12.38	2.55	20.60
1944	190	34	11.68	2.09	17.89
1945	177	24	10.81	1.41	19.21
1946	189	44	11.09	2.58	23.33
1947	177	37	10.34	2 16	20.90
1948	177	46	10.09	2 62	25.99
1949	196	55	11.09	3.11	28.07
1950	162	42	9.12	2.36	25.92

Cancer

Under this title are included all malignant growth and diseases.

During 1950, 14 deaths were certified as being due to Malignant growths, being 6 males and 8 females. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.79 per thousand population and accounts for 8.64 per cent. of the total deaths in Washington during 1950 as against a death rate of 1.99 for England and Wales from this cause.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to Cancer in Washington and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1941-1950.

Year	Number of Deaths Male	Female	Total	Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
1941	16	12	28	1.69
1942	11	17	28	1.72
1943	15	19	34	2.11
1944	14	15	29	1.78
1945	7	14	21	1.28
1946	14	15	29	1.76
1947	15	8	23	1.35
1948	15	9	24	1.37
1949	15	15	30	1.69
1950	6	8	14	0.79

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

(see commencement of this report.)

The County Council as the Local Health Authority, are responsible for the following services under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulances

Cases of accident or illness requiring transport are conveyed by Ambulances belonging to and under the control of the County Council. Washington Urban District, for this service, forms part of an area with Boldon Urban District and that part of Sunderland Rural lying North of the River Wear. The Control Centre is at Hebburn-on-Tyne (Telephone, Hebburn 32157).

The National Coal Board continue to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation is the responsibility of the County Council.

Local practitioners may immunise their patients and claim fees for this treatment from the Health Authority (County Council). Child Welfare Medical Officers will immunise children under five if requested to do so and if necessary the County Medical Officer endeavours to arrange for sessions to be held in schools.

Vaccinations if desired are performed by the family doctors who are paid for this service by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home

This is now available to all who require such assistance and the Nurses who served the area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association continue in their good work.

Midwifery

The Nurses employed by the County Council for this work act either as Maternity Nurses or Midwives. Since the services of both doctors and nurses are free to the patient there is an increasing tendency for the services of the general practitioner to be arranged for in addition to those of the nurse so that the latter acts more frequently as a Maternity Nurse than as Midwife, the reverse of what previously existed when a mother had to pay the fees of the doctor in addition to the Nurse.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

As before the appointed day, these centres are administered by the County Council.

That for Washington is held in the Miners' Welfare Hall, New Washington.

The clinics are held as follows:—

Ante Natal Clinic ...	Tuesday afternoons weekly. Alternate Thursdays.
Child Welfare Clinic ...	Monday mornings weekly. Friday mornings weekly.
Birth Control Clinic ... Post Natal Clinic ...	Alternate Tuesday mornings.
Ultra Violet Ray Clinic	Monday afternoons weekly. Friday afternoons weekly.

School Medical Clinics

These are administered by the County Council.

Home Helps

Women who are suitable are employed as Home Helps, being sent out to give domestic assistance in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged, if a request for such aid be made. Application can be made directly to the County Medical Officer or if any such request is made to this office it will at once be transmitted to the County Health Department. Charges for this service are based on the household income and none are made in necessitous cases.

Services Supplied by Regional Hospital Board

Hospital Treatment. Outpatient or resident is available to all who require same, for ordinary sickness, accidents or infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis Clinics and Venereal Diseases Clinics

These are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply

The Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., supply the Urban District with water.

The supply of water to the district is satisfactory (a) in quality, and (b) in quantity.

No treatment is installed in the supply system within the Urban District. The taking of samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis are carried out by the companies involved.

The waters do not appear to have plumbo-solvent action.

Three samples of main supply water taken during the year gave satisfactory results, there being no evidence of contamination.

All the dwelling-houses within the Urban District are supplied from public water mains by the method herewith tabulated:—

(1)	Direct to houses	4,833
(2)	By means of tap in yard or wash-house	144
		4,977

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

New sewers have been laid to meet the housing development in the Great Usworth Ward during the year.

The sewage of the district is discharged into the River Wear at three points, one near Barmston Forge and two at Washington Staithes. The waste matter at Barmston only is treated in settlement tanks before being allowed to flow into the river. The settlement tanks were cleansed during September 1949.

Rivers and Streams

One source of pollution of the River Wear was reduced to some extent, during the summer period of the year, by repairing and extending the outfall sewer at the Staithes.

Complaints of pollution of the Don Burn in the Waterloo area led to a fractured sewer being located and made good.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year the various types in use within the Urban District were as follows:—

		1948	1949	1950
Water Closets	...	5,224	5,499	5,620
Ash Closets ...	...	34	32	32
Ash-pit Privies	...	2	2	2
Chemical Closets	...	4	6	6

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The service within the district is carried out by direct labour, except for fourteen isolated houses which are done by contract.

The personnel includes foreman, three drivers, and eleven loaders. Three vehicles are operated within fixed areas of the district. Two Dennis (1948 and 1950) wagons of 10 cubic yard capacity, each with a crew of five including the driver, maintain the service in the two larger parts of the district, while the third vehicle, a Karrier Bantam (1943) of 7 cubic yard capacity, having a crew of four, maintains the third and smaller area.

The maintenance of a satisfactory service to the community during the past year, was in no small measure due to the team work of your personnel. The number of dwelling-houses, shops and other premises dealt with total 5,160, an increase of 75.

Time lost to service through inclement weather—4 days.

Time lost to service by repairs to vehicles—34 days.

Sickness and time lost among the personnel during the year amounted to 330 days, an increase of 64 days compared with the previous year.

The disposal of refuse collected is by tipping on the site of disused quarries, and on low lying agricultural land at the request of the owner or tenant. During the period under review 9,440 tons of refuse were tipped at six disposal points, including three tips and three agricultural areas. The location, tonnage and type of tipping are shown in the following table, viz.:—

Location	Tonnage	Tipping
Tips—Springwell Quarry	2,000 tons	Controlled
Oxclose	3,400 tons	Crude
Speculation Place	1,400 tons	Crude
Agricultural Land	2,640 tons	Crude
	9,440 tons	

Approximately 2,640 tons or 28 per cent. of the total tonnage involved was utilised on agricultural land.

The estimated weight per premise per year was 1,83 tons, and includes a fair amount of (a) Trade refuse, (b) Builder's refuse, and last but not the least, (c) Garden refuse.

Complaints of nuisance arising from tipping areas numbered eight—six instances of rat infestation and two minor cases of fire.

The cost of the service during the year was £5,764.

Unit Costs

Expenditure per ton per annum—12s. 2.54d.

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum—£1,117.

Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum—£324 7s. 4d.

Expenditure per premise per week—5.16d.

A comparative statement of the scavenging costs for the three previous years and the year prior to the war is given herewith:—

Year	Annual Cost	Approximate Cost per Premise
	£	s. d.
1938-39 ...	2,418 ...	10 8
1947-48 ...	5,083 ...	21 2
1948-49 ...	5,320 ...	21 3
1949-50 ...	5,224 ...	20 6
1950-51 ...	5,764 ...	22 4

Salvage

The continuation of the collection of salvage materials during the year was not encouraging and adjustments in the sorting arrangements were necessary. The market value of these materials began to improve towards the end of the year.

Income from Salvage	£541 12 0
Expenditure	£353 10 5

Although a profit of £188 on salvage is shown, the economic changes adopted have thrown some strain on the resources of your Cleansing Department to cope with the quantity of waste coming in. The trailers to each of the three wagons were discarded but by calls being arranged at specified times, in agreement with the shopkeepers, the control and the service was reasonably maintained.

The following returns show the quantities and value of materials collected by Council employees since the inception of salvage within the Urban area:—

	Weight		Value		
Year	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
1940-41	93	0	339	16	0
1941-42	222	1	811	5	7
1942-43	211	2	832	11	8
1943-44	199	1	824	12	8
1944-45	122	1	604	3	4
1945-46	82	19	468	8	4
1946-47	60	0	417	15	10
1947-48	72	12	455	0	0
1948-49	87	16	649	0	0
1949-50	82	4	599	6	9
1950-51	92	10	541	12	0
	1325	6	6543	12	2

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a) Number and Nature of Inspection.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	1,266
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	26
,, Bakehouses	6
,, Factories and Workshops	51
,, Work in progress	73
,, Slaughterhouses	0
,, Pig-keepers' Premises	30
,, Fish and Fruit Shops	32
Visits paid in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises	53
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures ...	2
Total number of Visits ...	1,539

Rat Infestation

During the year two maintenance treatments for rats in sewers within the area were carried out as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division. The work involved the inspection and primary baiting of 726 manholes. Subsequent treatment involved 148 points.

Surface infestations numbered 80 and the following table shows the kind of premises involved and the nature of the infestation dealt with:—

Premises	Nature of Infestation		
	Minor	Major	Reservoir
Food Shops	4	0	0
Other Shops	11	0	0
Dwelling-houses	49	0	0
Agricultural Property ...	7	0	0
Refuse Tips	5	1	0
Other Places	2	1	0

(b) Number of Notices served and complied with.

	Number of informal Notices Served	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses — Structural Def'ts	548	33	572
Dw'ling-houses — Foul Conditions	...	...	...
Dw'ling-houses — Overcrowding	...	...	...
Lodging-houses	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ..	...	...	...
Cowsheds	5	...	5
Bakehouses	3	...	3
Slaughter houses	..	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ..	2	...	2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	10	...	8
Water Closets	17	2	18
Defective Yard Paving ...	2	...	5
House Drainage — Defective Traps	8	...	8
House Drainage — No disconnection from sewers	...	...	...
House Drainage — Other Faults	104	1	106
Water Supply	34	...	36
Pigsties	...	...	...
Animals Improperly Kept ...	3	...	3
Offensive Trades	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	...
Ash Bins	105	3	105
Totals	841	39	871

Housing Repairs

The difficulty of obtaining labour and materials is still prevalent and is retarding the works of repairs.

The licencing ceiling fixed by the Ministry of Works (now the Ministry of Town and Country Planning) has further retarded the carrying-out of repairs.

Shops Act

Thirty-two inspections of shops were made during the year and in eight cases improvements were carried out by informal action, viz.:—

Two cases of improvement in structure and cleanliness, three cases of additional W.C. accommodation, and three cases of repair to W.C. compartments.

Smoke Abatement

In this Urban area the need to take action is not deemed necessary.

Swimming Baths

There are no Swimming baths in the district.

Camping Sites

There are no Camping sites in the district.

Schools

The sanitary condition of schools within the district was found to be generally satisfactory.

At the present time when much stress is placed on education and personal hygiene it is not encouraging to note the absence of hot water in schools, within the district, for washing purposes, especially where meals are distributed and partaken.

Cinemas and Halls

There are five cinemas and four halls within the district. These were inspected at intervals throughout the year with respect to sanitary arrangements. Informal action resulted in improvement of w.c. accommodation in one instance.

Eradication of the Bed Bug

	Infested	Disinfested
1. Council Houses	4	4
Other Houses	7	7
2. Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs	Zaldecide and Killgercide sprays.	
3. Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses	Foompest Fumigation and spraying.	
4. Whether work carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor	Local Authority.	
5. The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing	None.	

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	744
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1266
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	Nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	118
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	280

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	258

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	11
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	1

During the period under review there were 95 houses erected and occupied within the Urban District, viz:—

Permanent houses by Local Authority ...	85
Houses built by Private Enterprise ...	10

4. Overcrowding.

In the Urban District overcrowding is much in evidence, more particularly with regard to houses overcrowded by reason of more than one family being in occupation.

The following is a Summary of the Permanent Dwelling-houses, including number of Apartments erected by the Local Authority up to December, 31st, 1950:—

Houses Built under the following Acts.	No. of Houses	Number of Apartments			
		2	3	4	5
Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890	149		86	4	59
Housing Act, 1919	79	...	...	69	10
,, ,, 1924	744	80*	310	353	1
Housing Acts, 1930-6	214	...	...	214	...
,, Act, 1936	134	...	45	61	28
,, ,, 1936-48	91	...	7	60	24
,, ,, 1936-49 .. .	96	...	...	68	28
,, ,, 1936-50....	60	12	...	40	8
TOTAL	1,567	92	448	869	158

* Aged Persons Houses.

The total number of Dwelling-houses under the control of the Urban District Council is tabulated herewith:—

Permanent	...	1567
Temporary	...	258
Requisitioned	...	4
Others	...	3
		1832

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1946	No. of Houses Erected 1946-1949 inclusive.											Total
	Trad. Perm.	Temporary Prefabs.				Perm. Pref'b.		Traditional Permanent					
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Usworth	107												107
Village	42												42
Washington Station (A)	47												47
Washington Station 1924	18												18
Spout Lane	242										12		254
Aged Persons	80												80
Heworth Road	400												400
Grasmere	36												36
The Drive	214									28	11		253
Other Houses	5												5
Springwell								30	30				60
Falshaw Place		40											40
Usworth Green			52	8									60
Washington Station 1946						2	50		21	41			114
Hostel Estate				74	84								158
Blue House Lane											66	85	151
	1,191	40	52	82	84	2	50	30	51	69	89	85	1,825

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply

Details of licensing under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and the various Regulations made thereunder are given as follows:—

Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	1
Licensed to sell "T.T." Milk	2
Licensed to sell "Accredited" Milk	3
Registered to sell "Sterilised" Milk	37
Registered to sell "Non-designated" Milk ...	15

(b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

As in previous years, slaughtering for the Urban District was carried out under Government Control at Newcastle upon Tyne, and the meat transported in bulk to a local centre for final distribution to meat retailers.

With regard to the slaughter of pigs by farmers and pig-keepers for their own use, licensed slaughterers killed 33 pigs at various premises during the period under review. Due to the decentralisation of slaughter of pigs in accordance with Ministry of Food regulations, difficulty is experienced in the inspection of all carcases, but 27 of them were examined.

In the performance of the duties of Meat and Foods Inspector during the year, 118 visits were made to food premises. As a result of these visits 11 shops have had provision made for the supply of hot and cold water for the use of the personnel.

(c) Unsound Food

The following is a list of foodstuffs which, on inspection, were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered voluntarily:—

Tinned Meat, 1 cwt. 3 qtrs. 7 lbs.; Tinned Vegetables, 1 cwt. 13 lbs.; Tinned Fish, 8 lbs.; Tinned Soup, 2 lbs.; Tinned Fruit, 1 cwt. 1 qtr. 1 stone; Tinned Milk, 206 tins; Meat and Meat Food Products, 2 cwts. 3 qtrs.; Eggs, 104 doz.; Pies, 15 doz.; Bacon, 2 qtrs. 7 lbs.; Fruit, 4 lbs.; Cheese, 1 qtr. 1 stone 11 lbs.; Butter, 3 qtrs. 1 stone 2 lbs.; Jam, 1 qtr. 7 lbs.; Other foods, 2 qtrs. 4 lbs.

This involved the issue of 166 certificates.

(d) Ice Cream

Number of Producers registered ... 4

Number of Retailers registered ... 24

Samples were taken from the various premises during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Of the 18 samples taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, 10 were Grade 1, 3 Grade 2, 3 Grade 3 and 2 Grade 4.

(e) Shellfish

There are no beds in the district.

(f) Fried Fish Shops

There are 12 premises in the Urban area registered for the manufacture and sale of fried fish. These premises were visited during the year and in general the standard of cleanliness was satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 — Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	24	17	4	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	33	3	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	1	...	...
Total	57	51	7	...

2.—Cases is which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	9	9	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2)	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :					
Insufficient	1	1			...
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	...	1	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork)	...	...	...	...	...
Total	12	12	...	1	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1950 there were 405 cases of Infectious Diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) notified as occurring in the district as against 93 in 1949. The chief increase is in the number of cases of measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever.

Scarlet Fever

18 cases were notified during 1950 compared with 9 in 1949. Of these 17 were admitted to hospital.

There were no cases of puerperal pyrexia notified—a disease which is sometimes associated with contact with a case of scarlet fever or a patient suffering from a sore throat without a rash.

The case rate was 1.01 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.50.

Diphtheria

There was only one case of diphtheria notified during 1950 compared with two in 1949. The patient was duly admitted to hospital. A further number of patients were admitted to hospital suspected to be suffering from diphtheria but fortunately were not.

A small amount of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept in the department and is available to medical practitioners as desired.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.06 compared with 0.02 in 1949.

Immunisation

The patient who suffered from diphtheria had been immunised eleven years previously.

There has been an amazing reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria and in the number of deaths therefrom since the Government introduced its widespread campaign for immunisation in the early days of the last war.

Diphtheria is a disease which could be wiped out altogether, as has been done in various parts of the northern continent of America and Canada, provided the population is adequately immunised.

To get a really satisfactory result at least 75 per cent. of all children under 15 years of age should be immunised and unfortunately this result has not yet been obtained in the area where approximately 45.5 per cent. under 5 years of age and 61.6 per cent. between 5 and 15 years have been treated. All children should receive a full dose between the age of 8 and 12 months and have a booster injection before entering school and preferably a second booster 3 to 5 years later.

Since commencement of immunisation in Washington in 1940, over 3,674 children have received the full course.

Influenza and Pneumonia

There was a slight epidemic at the beginning of the year and in December it became prevalent again. 6 deaths were ascribed to this cause compared with 4 in the previous year.

There were 4 deaths certified as being due to pneumonia compared with 6 in 1949. Whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified was 13 compared with 14 in 1949.

Measles and Whooping Cough

Measles and Whooping Cough were epidemic throughout the district in 1950 when there were 310 cases of measles and 31 of whooping cough as compared with 39 cases of measles and 10 of whooping cough in 1949.

Fortunately there were no deaths from either of these diseases during 1950.

No action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last three and the first three months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection has been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated as far as practicable from other children, since complications may occur in this disease which

are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms: bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school, especially during the third week after exposure, if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles and whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

Erysipelas

During 1950 there was only one case of Erysipelas notified and this patient was admitted to hospital. There were no cases in 1949.

Anterior Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis (commonly known as Infantile Paralysis)

Five cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified during 1950. There were none during 1949.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during year 1950.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1950.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	18	17	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...
Pneumonia	13	6	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	1	1	...
Measles	310	...	...
Whooping Cough	31	...	...
Dysentry	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	5	5	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Totals	379	30	4

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1950 —Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified — At Ages—Years: Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total	Total No. of Cases Notified in Each W: Washington	Washington Station	Usworth Col.	Great Usworth	Springwell	Wash. Staithes	Barmston	Total	Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6	...	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	18	2	5	2	1	7	1	...	18	17	1.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	0.06
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	7	2	13	5	...	1	3	4	...	...	13	6	0.73
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0.06
Pulmonary Tuberculosis } *Male* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	5	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	0.22
Pulmonary Tuberculosis } *Female* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11	1	1	...	15	2	6	2	5	...	...	...	15	...	0.84
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis } *Male* ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	0.06
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis } *Female* ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	...	0.22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0.06
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	16	41	47	53	48	101	3	...	1	...	...	...	310	58	77	98	43	13	19	2	310	...	17.44
Whooping Cough ...	...	3	10	9	1	8	...	...	...	...	..	...	31	9	8	4	6	4	...	...	31	...	1.74
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	..	1	3	...	...	1	...	5	5	0.22
Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	20	46	60	69	49	120	8	2	19	1	9	2	405	83	99	110	59	30	22	2	405	30	22.66

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1950 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) 1926 relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trades or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950

20 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 5 males and 15 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 1 male and 4 females.

The following table shows the notification of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex for the years 1941-50.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Year	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1941	3	11	14	6	2	8
1942	5	10	15	4	4	8
1943	10	10	20	5	4	9
1944	9	4	13	2	1	3
1945	8	7	15	–	2	2
1946	6	11	17	1	2	3
1947	3	6	9	7	1	8
1948	15	6	21	4	–	4
1949	11	6	17	4	2	6
1950	5	15	20	1	2	3

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1950 according to sex and ward incidence.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Washington	2	2	—	2	6
Washington Station	2	6	—	—	8
Usworth Colliery	—	2	—	—	2
Great Usworth	—	5	—	1	6
Springwell	1	—	—	1	2
Washington Staithes	—	—	1	—	1
Barmston	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	15	1	4	25

The following table shows the various age periods for males and females at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ,, ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 ,, ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—25 ,, ...	1	12	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 ,, ...	3	1	—	—	1	2	1	—
35—45 ,, ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ,, ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	15	1	4	4	2	1	—

Occupation

The occupation of the patients who were notified during the year as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were as follows:—

4 Miners, 5 Housewives, 3 Shop Assistants, 3 Factory Workers, 1 Lorry Driver, 1 Chemical Worker, 1 Canteen Cook, 1 Clerk and 1 Waitress.

Those suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were employed as follows:—

1 Infant, 1 Housewife, 3 School Children.

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases

4 glands neck, 1 spine.

Examination of Sputa

Specimens of sputa sent by the family doctor or other medical practitioner are examined free at the Public Health laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne